SPARTINA CONTROL
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of Checklist

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for Applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the question from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or it a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply". Complete answers to the question now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for non-project proposals::

Complete this checklist for non-project proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NON-PROJECT ACTIONS (part D). For non-project actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project:

Washington State *Spartina* Eradication Project for 2002 through 2007

2. Name of applicant:

Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Kyle Murphy (360) 902-1923. 1111 Washington Street.; PO Box 42560; Olympia, WA 98504-2560

4. Date checklist prepared:

May 2002

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5. Agency requesting checklist:

WSDA

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

June 15 2002 through June 15 2007.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to this proposal? If yes, explain.

Yes. WSDA staff will be conducting surveys each year and will treat any discovered *Spartina* as they deem appropriate.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

WSDA, the Washington State Department of Ecology, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife and the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board prepared the final Noxious Emergent Plant Management Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in November 1993. Copies of the EIS are available for review at the Washington State Library, Capitol Campus, Point Plaza East 6880 Capitol Blvd S, Tumwater, Washington; at the Washington State Department of Ecology, Regional Libraries, 300 Desmond Drive, Lacey, Washington; and at WSDA Laboratory Services Division, 1111 Washington Street, 2nd Floor, Olympia, Washington.

With WSDA serving as project sponsor, the University of Washington (UW) School of Aquatic and Fisheries Sciences conducted a study during the spring and summer of 2000 titled *Tissue Residues of Glyphosate and Aminomethyl Phosphonic Acid (AMPA) in Shellfish Associated with Application of Rodeo® to Control Spartina alterniflora*. The study, conducted at Batelle Pacific Northwest Laboratories in Sequim, Washington, was done in compliance with Good Laboratory Practices standards. Copies of the final report are available for review at WSDA Laboratory Services Division, 1111 Washington Street, 2nd Floor, Olympia, Washington.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service concluded a three-year study in 2000, titled *Long-Term Fate of Glyphosate Associated with Repeated Rodeo Applications to control smooth cordgrass (Spartina alterniflora) in Willapa Bay Washington*. Copies of the final report are available for review at WSDA Laboratory Services Division, 1111 Washington Street, 2nd Floor, Olympia, Washington.

Also in 2000, Dr. Sally D. Hacker (Washington State University – Vancouver) et al. completed their initial research and wrote a technical report (currently in press) titled *The extent and possible consequences of nonindigenous English cordgrass invasion in the Pacific Northwest*. Copies of the report are available for review at WSDA Laboratory Services Division, 1111 Washington Street, 2nd Floor, Olympia, Washington.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

No

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

The Washington State Department of Ecology, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES).

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

In order to control and eradicate an infestation of Spartina, the WSDA uses an Integrated Weed Management approach (IWM) as outlined in the Noxious Emergent Plant Management Environmental Impact Statement published in November of 1993. IWM allows for a treatment method to be selected on the basis of maximizing efficacy while minimizing negative impacts. IWM employs physical, mechanical, biological, and chemical treatment methods including hand pulling, digging, covering, mowing, and treating with herbicide (Rodeo® or Aquamaster®). The herbicide is mixed with a surfactant; either LI-700, R-11, X-77. This herbicide is applied by wiping, hand spraying or aerial application, were deemed necessary. In addition, an indicator marker will be mixed with the herbicide and surfactant to allow for a more even application of herbicide.

Applications of the herbicide will be applied to sites identified in the attached management plan when deemed appropriate. Other infestations detected in Washington State may also be treated by one or more hand or aerial applications from June 15 2002 through June 15 2007.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The waterbody for this proposal includes all waterbodies of the State of Washington were *Spartina* may be found.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, <u>other</u> –

Spartina generally grows in the intertidal zone, which usually has a slight downward slope.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Does Not Apply

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

Mudflats with characteristics of sand, gravel, mud, and muck.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

No

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Does Not Apply

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Unknown. Possible erosion could be caused by wave action in those areas where roots are removed.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

Does Not Apply

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

WSDA will establish fixed access paths, minimize number of treatments when possible, and implement other erosion control measures as necessary.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

There is the potential for some aerial drifting of the spray during application. The gas-powered treatment equipment and support vehicles will emit exhaust during application. There will be no emissions after the project is completed.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

WSDA will use careful herbicide application procedures which adhere to herbicide labels and NPDES Permit requirements. Dense Spartina canopy architecture and treatment methodology result in minimal off plant application.

3. Water

a. Surface:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, [ponds. wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

The waterbody for this proposal includes all waterbodies of the State of Washington were *Spartina* may occur.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Yes, herbicide mixed with a surfactant and an indicator marker will be applied to Spartina colonies along the intertidal zone of the shores described above.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

Does Not Apply

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No

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5) Does the proposal lie within a 100 year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

Does Not Apply

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No

b. Ground:

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage: industrial, containing the following chemicals . . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

None

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Rain may create storm-water run-off, which could enter the immediate area of the proposed waterbody.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

None

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

None at this time.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:
___deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
___evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
___shrubs
___grass

___pasture
___crop or grain
___wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
___water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
_X_other types of vegetation

Spartina, Eelgrass, Pickleweed, Saltgrass, Arrowgrass, Sedge, Bullrush, and Fleshy Jaumea are most common. Kelp, algae and diatoms are also present.

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Spartina alterniflora, Spartina anglica, Spartina patens and Spartina densiflora will be mowed, and wiped or sprayed with a herbicide, surfactant and an indicator marker. All reasonable precautions will be taken to avoid impacting Eelgrass and other non-targeted vegetation.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

There are no federally listed endangered or threatened plant species that appear on the tideflats. Puccinellia nutkaensis, Crassula connata, *Cochlearia officinalis*, Fritillaria camschatcensis and Lepidium oxycarpum are on the state list as sensitive species but are not know to occur on the targeted tideflats. Fritillaria camschatcensis is on the state list as a sensitive species and is known to occur further inland of the upper salt marshes. Refer to the Noxious Emergent Plant Management Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) published November 1993.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

WSDA plans to restore the native wetland, which was a mudflat. We do not plan to encourage additional vegetation at this time.

5. Animals

a. Circle any birds and animals, which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: **hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds,** other: many shorebirds and waterfowl species.
mammals: **deer, bear, elk**, beaver, **other: many marine and terrestrial mammals.**
fish: bass, **salmon**, trout, **herring, shellfish**, **other: many other fish.**

Refer to the Noxious Emergent Plant Management EIS published November 1993.

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

The following federally listed Threatened (T) or Endangered (E) species may occur in the proposed area or adjacent uplands: bald eagle (T), western snowy plover (T), marbled murrelet (T), Gray wolf (E), Western pond turtle (E), Fisher (E), American White Pelican (E), Grizzly bear (T), Lynx (T), Bull Trout (E), , Aleutian Canada geese (T), peregrine falcon (E), brown pelican (E), Oregon silverspot butterfly (T), Stellar sea-lion (T), Loggerhead sea turtle (T), leatherback sea turtle (E), Chinook Salmon (T) Chum Salmon (T) and green sea turtle (T). Refer to the Noxious Emergent Plant Management Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) published November 1993.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Yes, high concentrations of shorebirds and Salmon migrate through Washington State, depending on the location, and time of year.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

It is not anticipated that any threatened or endangered species will be affected by this proposal. Actions taken against Spartina to prevent establishment of this exotic noxious weed will preserve and enhance wildlife habitat by stopping the conversion of native mudflats, eelgrass beds and salt marshes to monotypic high marsh meadows.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Gasoline engines will be used on boats and equipment.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

Does Not Apply.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

Does Not Apply.

7. Environmental Health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

Yes, exposure to the herbicide during mixing and application, and some potential for spills. The potential for health hazards associated with this project is addressed in Appendix F of the EIS referred to in Section A, item #8 of this SEPA checklist. According to the EIS, there is minimal potential for significant adverse impacts on human health in projects of this type. It is the intent of the WSDA to reduce that minimal potential through compliance with product labeling.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Some potential need for the Dept. of Ecology "spill response" in the event of a major spill.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

Mixing and application of herbicide to be done in accordance to the label. Work safety and containment and clean-up plans and materials to be on-site during applications. Adjacent landowners and residents of affected areas will be supplied with information about the herbicide to be applied, notified approximately when the activity will occur, and given the name of the waterbody to be treated. Public access areas listed in the Washington Public Shore Guide, Marine Waters (Department of Ecology) located within half a mile of a treatment area will also be posted before application.

b. Noise:

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

None

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hour's noise would come from the site.

Short-term noise from the treatment equipment and support vehicles may occur.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Public access areas listed in the Washington Public Shore Guide, Marine Waters (published by the Department of Ecology) located within half a mile of a treatment area will also be posted before application. In Island County, all public access areas listed in the Washington Public Shore Guide, Marine Waters, will be posted.

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

8. Land and Shoreline Use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Tideflats are generally used for recreation and aquaculture.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

The sites in this proposal are tideflats, which are not typically used for agricultural purposes.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Piers or docks could be found along the shoreline near treatment sites.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Does not apply. (The tideflats are typically used for recreation or aquaculture.)

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Does Not Apply

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Does Not Apply

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

Although there is no legal definition of environmentally sensitive areas, there are, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Map on Environmentally Sensitive Areas, several such areas in the general areas of targeted control depending on the time of year. During the summer, eelgrass and kelp beds are present in some areas, some haul-out areas for marine mammals exist, and surf smelt spawning grounds are found. Refer to the Noxious Emergent Plant Management EIS published November 1993.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Does Not Apply

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

Does Not Apply

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

None

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

None

9. Housing

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a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Does Not Apply

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Does Not Apply

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

Does Not Apply

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Does Not Apply

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

Does Not Apply

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

Does Not Apply

11. Light and Glare

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

Does Not Apply

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Does Not Apply

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Does Not Apply

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

Does Not Apply

12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

There is a wide range of recreational activities available in the immediate vicinity.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

Some noise generated from the treatment equipment and support vehicles may impact some recreational uses temporarily.

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

All herbicide and surfactant will be applied according to label and permit requirements. In addition, an indicator marker called "Hi-light" will be added to herbicide to aid in even application.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

There are no known historic or culturally significant sites other than the shores of the Port Madison Indian Reservation, the Tulalip Indian Reservation, the Swinomish Indian Reservation, the Lummi Indian Reservation, Skokomish Indian Reservation, Squaxin Island Indian Reservation, Quinault Indian Reservation, the Hoh Indian Reservation, the Quillayute Indian Reservation, the Ozette Indian Reservation, the Makah Indian Reservation, the Lower Elwah Indian Reservation, and the Port Gamble Indian Reservation, Shoalwater Bay Indian Reservation and the Suquamish Tribal Land. All newly discovered infestations will be verified with the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation before treatment occurs. If any archaeological sites are observed during eradication activities, the sites will not be disturbed and the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation in Olympia will be informed immediately.

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

None

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

Does Not Apply

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

Does Not Apply

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Does Not Apply

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

Does Not Apply

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

None

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

None

15. Public Services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

Does Not Apply.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

Does Not Apply.

16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

Does Not Apply

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

Does Not Apply.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: . . . . . Date Submitted……...